In the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A method for automatically updating an original URL stored in a bookmark storage area of a web browser, comprising the steps of:

inserting a redirect URL in an encoded web page representation associated with said original URL;

reading said encoded web page representation with said browser; and

replacing said original URL stored in said bookmark storage area with said redirect URL, wherein said original URL is a static URL.

2. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising the step of:

inserting said original URL as a history URL in said bookmark storage area.

3. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 2, further comprising the steps of:

sending an invalid URL indication to said browser when said redirect URL is invalid; and

when said invalid URL indication is received by said browser, directing said browser to the address identified by said history URL.

4. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said replacing step is effected at the option of a user of said web browser.

5. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said encoded web page representation is encoded in HTML.

6. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said encoded web page representation is encoded in XML.

7. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said reading and replacing steps are executed periodically for all stored URLs by invoking an automatic update program.

8. (Currently amended) A computer program product for automatically updating an original URL stored in a bookmark storage area of a web browser, comprising the steps of:

inserting a redirect URL in an encoded web page representation associated with said original URL;

reading said encoded web page representation with said browser; and

replacing said original URL stored in said bookmark storage area with said redirect URL, wherein said original URL is a static URL.

9. (Original) A computer program product as set forth in claim 8, further comprising the step of:

inserting said original URL as a history URL in said bookmark storage area.

10. (Original) A computer program product as set forth in claim 9, further comprising

the steps of:

sending an invalid URL indication to said browser when said redirect URL is invalid; and

when said invalid URL indication is received by said browser, directing said browser to

the address identified by said history URL.

11. (Original) A computer program product as set forth in claim 8, wherein said

replacing step is effected at the option of a user of said web browser.

12. (Original) A computer program product as set forth in claim 8, wherein said encoded

web page representation is encoded in HTML.

13. (Original) A computer program product as set forth in claim 8, wherein said encoded

web page representation is encoded in XML.

14. (Original) A computer program product as set forth in claim 8, wherein said reading

and replacing steps are executed periodically for all stored URLs by invoking an automatic update

program.

15. (Currently amended) A system for automatically updating an original URL stored in

a bookmark storage area of a web browser, comprising the steps of:

inserting a redirect URL in an encoded web page representation associated with said

original URL;

reading said encoded web page representation with said browser; and

replacing said original URL stored in said bookmark storage area with said redirect URL,

wherein said original URL is a static URL.

16. (Original) A system as set forth in claim 15, further comprising the step of:

inserting said original URL as a history URL in said bookmark storage area.

17. (Original) A system as set forth in claim 16, further comprising the steps of:

sending an invalid URL indication to said browser when said redirect URL is invalid; and

when said invalid URL indication is received by said browser, directing said browser to

the address identified by said history URL.

18. (Original) A system as set forth in claim 15, wherein said replacing step is effected

at the option of a user of said web browser.

19. (Original) A system as set forth in claim 15, wherein said encoded web page

representation is encoded in HTML.

20. (Original) A system as set forth in claim 15, wherein said encoded web page representation is encoded in XML.

21. (Original) A system as set forth in claim 15, wherein said reading and replacing steps are executed periodically for all stored URLs by invoking an automatic update program.